

DOCKET NO. 97-239-C - ORDER NO. 2003-221

APRIL 7, 2003

IN RE: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an) ORDER GRANTING
Intrastate Universal Service Fund.) REQUEST TO EXTEND
) DEADLINE FOR FILING
) TARIFFS ASSOCIATED
) WITH THE STATE
) UNIVERSAL SERVICE
) FUND

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the Motion of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (“BellSouth” or “Company”) for an extension of time in which to file tariffs associated with the State Universal Service Fund as set out in Commission Order No. 2001-996, dated October 10, 2001, requiring the participating companies to file their tariffs associated with the South Carolina Universal Service Fund (USF) no later than April 1 of each year.

Commission Order No. 2001-996 sets out the guidelines and administrative procedures for the USF, and provides that after the Initial Phase, on April 1 of each year, beginning in 2003, each ILEC receiving USF support may file tariff reductions and request additional USF support to fund the continued removal of implicit support contained in rates. Such filings will be considered by the Commission and a decision rendered by September 1 of the same year for inclusion in the state USF as sized each October 1. Additionally, Order No. 2001-996 provides that companies seeking rate reductions shall also file detailed cost

data clearly demonstrating that implicit support exists in the rates that are proposed to be reduced. Any such tariff filings shall be made by April 1, 2003 and the Commission's decision will be rendered by August 1, 2003.

On March 26, 2003, BellSouth filed a Motion for Extension of Time with the Commission requesting that the Commission extend the April 1, 2003 deadline to file its tariffs associated with the USF. By its Motion, BellSouth requests that the deadline for filings in the instant docket be extended for sixty (60) days until June 1, 2003.

BellSouth states in its Motion that during the agenda conference yesterday,¹ the Commission made its decision regarding the USF filings submitted last year by various companies and that an Order of the Commission memorializing its decision will be forthcoming. Prior to deciding whether and how to make the Company's filings, BellSouth asserts that it would like to review the Commission's Order issued in this matter. According to BellSouth, an additional sixty (60) days should provide sufficient time for the Company to review the Commission's Order, as well as any Order on Reconsideration that may be necessary, before deciding whether and how to file the Company's tariffs in this docket.

The Commission finds and concludes that BellSouth's Motion for Extension of Time to file the Company's tariffs and accompanying cost data associated with the USF should be granted.

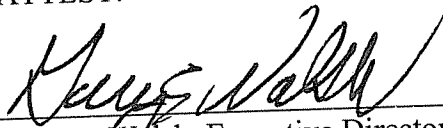
¹ "Agenda conference yesterday" as stated herein relates to the Commission's weekly agenda meeting that was held March 25, 2003.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The deadline of April 1, 2003, as set forth in Commission Order No. 2001-996, shall be extended to June 1, 2003, for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. to file the Company's tariffs and any accompanying cost data associated with the South Carolina Universal Service Fund.

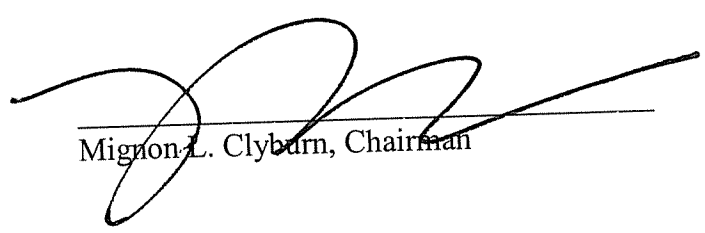
2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

ATTEST:



Gary E. Walsh, Executive Director

(SEAL)



Mignon L. Clyburn, Chairman